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COUNTRY Hungary REPORT NO. []

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Szombathely

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EVALUATION [] PLACE OBTAINED []

25X DATE OF CONTENT [] 25X1

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REFERENCES [] 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) []

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1. Soviet troops arrived in Szombathely (P 48/C 78) by rail each day from 27 through 29 July 1950, coming from the direction of Celldoemerk (P 48/D 19). Many Soviet soldiers and motor vehicles were seen in the city after the arrival of the troop trains. Soviet units, mostly of platoon strength, were seen leaving the city daily for field training. They frequently held exercises during which the troops, including officers and motor vehicle drivers, put on gas masks with a long ribbed rubber hose.
2. Fifty-five to sixty large tanks with revolving turrets were parked on the Haladas athletic field, also called MAV field. Most of the tanks were covered with tarpaulins or stored in sheds with corrugated iron roofs. They were guarded by four sentinels armed with submachine guns. The tank guns projected far beyond the front of the tank.
3. The old and new Gendarmerie Barracks were occupied by at least 400 troops. Thirty to forty trucks were parked in the yard. Many soldiers entered and left the billeting area. A heavily damaged building opposite the Gendarmerie Barracks housed a motor vehicle repair shop where 10 to 12 trucks were spray-painted.
4. The Faludi Ferenc High School building appeared to house a dispensary or a hospital. Several trucks were parked in the rear of the building.
5. About 10 passenger cars, 10 jeeps and 120 to 130 trucks were parked in Herics Garden in the southeastern section of Eszredevi Park. No armored vehicles were seen there. The villas to the south of Herics Garden were occupied by Soviet officers.
6. The boarding school building on Jokai Mór Street was occupied by 120 to 150 troops. About 15 trucks were permanently parked in front of the building. The adjoining house was used as officers' billets. Ration supplies or equipment seemed to be stored in the boarding school building.

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7. The former corps headquarters building on Kalvaria Street was occupied by about 500 troops. About 15 AT guns of about 75 mm caliber, 12 mortars of about 120 mm caliber and 15 trucks were seen in the yard.
8. The Cavalry Barracks was occupied by 1,500 to 2,000 troops according to a friend of source who lived near the billeting area. About 200 trucks, 10 guns which were canvas-covered and appeared to be of a heavy type, and 10 prime movers were parked in the barracks yard.
9. The Artillery Barracks on Peragvaris Street was occupied by troops. About 20 armored vehicles and 25 to 30 trucks were parked in the yard.
10. The former Mayer Motor Works on Zanati Street billeted a Soviet motor vehicle repair shop unit of about 100 men. There was much motor traffic.
11. Soviet ammunition was stored in a sheep stable, about 70 meters long, on the right side of Vepi Street before it crosses Sagi Street leading toward the railroad station. Two new buildings on the opposite side of Vepi Street were prepared to serve as ammunition storehouses. The buildings were surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence and guarded from four watch towers.
12. A guarded fuel and firewood dump was on Sceptei Street on the northern edge of the city.
13. An MVD office was on Vass Jozsef Ring in the second villa after the junction of Sugar Street leading toward the railroad station. The villa was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. Most of the Soviet office personnel wore civilian clothes. *

25X1A * Comment. Since they arrived from the east the troop trains may have carried component units of the 17th Gds Mecz Div which returned to their post in Szombathely from the Haymasker training grounds. With the exception of the Cavalry Barracks which housed 1,000 troops more than it had previously, the occupation of the other installations corresponds to previous information.

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